

SECTION VI

SCAG's Responses To Comments

2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Response to Comments

Record ID	Comment Date	Name	Affiliation	Comment	Response
RTIP 08-01	19-Jun-08	De Salvo, Alan J.	Mojave Desert	<p>The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) has received the request for comments for the 2008 Draft Regional Transportation Improvement Program, a capital listing of all transportation projects proposed over a six-year period, Fiscal Years 2008/09 - 2013/14. This listing identifies specific funding sources and funding amounts for each project. Projects include highway improvements, transit, and bus facilities, high occupancy vehicle lanes, signal synchronization, intersection improvements, and freeway ramps.</p> <p>The MDAQMD has reviewed the program and, based on the information available to us at this time, we have no comments. The District supports the Southern California Association of Governments 208 Regional Transportation Improvement Program; such projects are expected to produce cumulative and regional environmental benefits.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to review this planning document. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (760) 245-1661, extension 6726 or Tracy Walters at extension 6122.</p>	Comment Noted
RTIP 08-02	30-Jun-08	Gombert, Martin	City of Commerce	<p>Pablo:</p> <p>I cannot locate the list of projects we submitted in the 2008 RTIP Project Listing. Attached is a copy of the projects I entered into the TIP earlier in the year. Click on the red tab for the list.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Martin Gombert Acting Director of Transportation City of Commerce, CA</p>	SCAG contacted Metro regarding the City of Commerce submittal. Metro clarified that the City of Commerce request was for inclusion of the projects in the 2006 RTIP.
RTIP 08-03	7-Jul-08	Walecka, Carla	Carla Walecka Planning	<p>Please correct one typographical error in the project listing for SR-241, Foothill Transportation Corridor South, in the Comprehensive Modeling Listing included in the Regional Emissions Analysis for the 2008 RTIP. The listing for Part 1 of 2 refers to the "2020 Portion: of the project. This should be corrected to read "2013 Portion", consistent with the opening date referenced in the project description and additional project details.</p> <p>I discussed the need for this correction with Philip Law during the week of June 28th, and am hereby entering this request change into the formal written record on behalf of the Transportation Corridor Agencies.</p> <p>I would appreciate your confirmation that this comment has been received. Please let me know if you have any questions about this request. We look forward to the correction in the Final 2008 RTIP.</p>	The correction was made to the Modeling list.

2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Response to Comments

Record ID	Comment Date	Name	Affiliation	Comment	Response
RTIP 08-04	7-Jul-08	Garcia, Robert	The City Project	<p>Dear Mr. Gutierrez and Mr. Ikhrata:</p> <p>We urge the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to address and remedy the inequity of park access in the Regional Transportation Implementation Plan (RTIP). We look forward to meeting with you to develop and implement a Transit to Trails program for the RTIP.</p> <p>Very Truly yours,</p> <p>Robert Garcia Executive Director and Council The City Project 1055 Wilshire Avenue, Suite 1660 Los Angeles, CA 90017 rgarcia@cityproject.org www.cityproject.org 213-977-1035</p>	<p>The CTCs and IVAG develop their respective TIPs based on RTIP Guidelines written by SCAG in consultation with CTCs/IVAG and Federal Highway Administration staff, and approved by SCAG's Regional Council. When submitting County TIPs to SCAG, each CTC and IVAG is required to adopt a financial resolution which certifies that it has the resources to fund the projects in the TIP and affirms its commitment to implement all projects. The process of assigning specific funding sources to projects normally occurs in meetings open to the general public by public policy boards. For example, the CTCs and IVAG in the SCAG region conduct "call for projects" when funding under their control (federal, state and /or local) is available for programming. Local agencies apply and compete for available funding based on adopted eligibility guidelines consistent with federal, state and local county requirements.</p> <p>SCAG Staff has set up a meeting with a Mr. Garcia to discuss the RTIP Process.</p>
RTIP 08-05	7-Jul-08	Catanacci, Tony	City of South Pasadena	<p>Mr. Ikhrata:</p> <p>I have attached comments on the 2008 RTIP from the City of South Pasadena in a .PDF profile. A printed copy is being mailed to you.</p> <p>Extracted from Letter: Project ID#18790, Route 710: RTE 10 to Del Mar Blvd Overcrossing for the 710 FWY - Work on Environmental Clearance Issues & Fund Initial Design. (EA# 18790, PPNO#2215)(IIP) SAFETEA#2193 on Page 12 of 15 in the Los Angeles County State Highway Section. This project references work on a surface freeway extension that does not exist, has not been approved, and is not included in the 2008 RTP.</p> <p>Extracted from Letter: ID#2009: Sate Route 710, Near South Pasadena from Route 10 to Route 210 - Partial Right of Way for New 6 Lane Freeway with 2 HOV Lanes (EA#020090, PPNO 0219M)</p> <p>The Comment noted that RTIP ID# 2009 should be deleted from the RTIP Project Listings because such right-of way acquisition is enjoined, and there is no approval either existing or pending for a freeway of six lanes and 2 HOV ones.</p>	<p>The project description revised as follows for Project ID#18790: "Rte 710 Gap Closure (North) PE & Technical Studies"</p> <p>The project is reflected in the previously obligated section of the RTIP project listing which is technically not part of the adopted 2008 TIP.</p>
RTIP 08-06	7-Jul-08	Knipe, John F., P.E., City Engineer	City of Westlake Village	<p>Dear Pablo</p> <p>The City of Westlake Village is very concerned with the information on our project being incorrectly shown. I hope you can help us with this matter.</p> <p>For your information, I have attached a letter to you with a page of the 08RTIP page for our project for your reference.</p> <p>If you have any questions or need to talk to me, please call me at 818-706-1613</p> <p>thank you again John</p>	<p>After discussions with the City of Westlake Village, the city agreed that there are not any project issues with this project (LA960142).</p>

2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Response to Comments

Record ID	Comment Date	Name	Affiliation	Comment	Response
RTIP 08-07	8-Jul-08	Brine, Anthony P.E., T.E City Traffic Engineer	City of Newport Beach	<p>July 8, 2008</p> <p>Southern California Association of Governments 818 W. 7th Street, 12th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90017</p> <p>Attention: Pablo Gutierrez</p> <p>SUBJECT: SCAG 2008/09- 2013/14 Draft Regional Transportation Improvement Program (Draft 2008 RTIP)</p> <p>Dear Mr. Gutierrez,</p> <p>The City of Newport Beach Public Works Department has reviewed the Draft 2008 RTIP document. We have the following comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We would like to indicate our support for the Costa Mesa - Newport Boulevard 2. We will continue to work with OCTA regarding the funding for the Jamboree Road Widening project, ORA0440605. <p>If you should have any questions regarding our comments, please contact me at (949) 644-3329.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Antony Brine, P.S., T.E. City Traffic Engineer</p>	Comment Noted
RTIP 08-08	8-Jul-08	Abhijit Bagde	Caltrans	<p>General Comments:</p> <p>Expedited project Selection Procedures, EPSP (Technical Appendix Volume II of III, Attachment E): Include all the programs from your 2009 FTIP which are eligible for EPSP. also include Highway Bridge Program (HBP), State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP), Section 130 rail program, Safe Routes to School (SRTS), High Risk Rural Road Program HR3) under Caltrans Managed programs. For all applicable programs covered under EPSP include language similar to the following:</p> <p>"Projects from the first four years of 2009 FTIP have been selected using the project selection procedures".</p> <p>2. There are several projects in the entire document for which no funding is programmed within four year FTIP period for the 2009 FTIP, few of the projects I have identified below under "Project Listings". Please clarify why these projects are programmed. Explain if these projects are programmed for environmental document approval in the project description field.</p>	<p>1. Expedited Project Selection Procedures -- language added.</p> <p>Comment #2 is an overall Caltrans comments. Caltrans provided project specific details for comment # 2. SCAG's responses are included with the individual comment.</p>

2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Response to Comments

Record ID	Comment Date	Name	Affiliation	Comment	Response
	8-Jul-08	Abhijit Bagde	Caltrans	<p>3. There are several projects in the entire document for which no matching funds are programmed for the federal funds, few of the projects I have identified below under "Project Listings".</p> <p>4. There are several Demo-SAFETEA-LU (HPP) projects in the entire document that programs funding Advance Construction Conversion fund type, few of the projects I have identified below under "Project Listings". Identify the AC conversion fund type as "HPP-RE" as shown below.</p> <p>(Embedded image moved to file: pic04939.jpg)</p>	Comments #3 and #4 are overall Caltrans comments. Caltrans provided project specific comments for # 3 and #4 in their document. SCAG's responses are included with the individual comment.
	8-Jul-08	Abhijit Bagde	Caltrans	<p>Financial Summary:</p> <p>1. RSTP Estimates (revenue) are not consistent with the attached estimates that were provided to you. Please clarify.</p> <p>(See attached file: RSTP_FY0809.pdf)</p> <p>2. SHOPP: Adjust the revenue and programming summaries by moving \$270.2 M from FY 2008/09 to FY 2009/10. See page 24 of 140 of the link below for more information.</p> <p>http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/transprog/SHOPP/2008_SHOPP_03-27-08_Fin_NEW.pdf</p> <p>3. Surface Transportation Program Enhancement: Is the revenue source STIP-TEA, if yes please include the funding under "STIP" under "State".</p> <p>4. Provide the financial summary in an excel format (see attachment below) when submitting final 2009 FTIP to Caltrans.</p> <p>(See attached file: Financial tables050108.xls)</p> <p>5. HSIP: Adjust both Both Revenue and Programmed information per excel file attached in No. 24 below. Also remove HSIP line under Federal Highway Discretionary Programs section as it is included under Federal Highway Non-Discretionary Programs section.</p> <p>6. HRRR: Include both Both Revenue and Programmed information per excel file attached in No. 23 below.</p>	<p>1. The RSTP revenue is consistent with the estimates provided. Please note that the "SCAG Region" totals does not include the figures for Imperial County. The Imperial County figures are listed separately. When the "SCAG Region" total is added to the Imperial County total they match the figure used by SCAG.</p> <p>2. The programming was corrected.</p> <p>3. Duly Noted.</p> <p>4. A file in excel format was provided to Caltrans.</p> <p>5. the HSIP figures were adjusted as indicated in item #24.</p> <p>6. The HRRR figures were adjusted as indicated in item #23.</p>
	8-Jul-08	Abhijit Bagde	Caltrans	<p>7. Safe Routes to School (SAFETEA-LU) program is SRTS. Please make the correction in the financial summary.</p> <p>8. Safe Routes to SCHOOL - TEA21 (SR2S): Include the funding from the attached spreadsheet for this program.</p> <p>(See attached file: 08~09 SR2S FTIP Back-Up 05-12-08.xls)</p>	<p>7. The financial summary was corrected.</p> <p>8. The Safe Routes to School projects are included in the Draft 2008 RTIP under project #SCAG208.</p>

2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Response to Comments

Record ID	Comment Date	Name	Affiliation	Comment	Response
	8-Jul-08	Abhijit Bagde	Caltrans	<p>Project Listings:</p> <p>1. ORA001109: Please move this project from "Local Highways" section to "State Highways" section.</p> <p>2. Use the fund type below for all STIP (Both RIP and IIP projects) except for STIP-TEA projects.</p> <p>(Embedded image moved to file: pic10918.jpg)</p> <p>3. Project Ids: 0515, 8020, IMP0042A, LAE0465, LA0D714, LA0D479, RIV050102, 35558, 0A6410, 0A7910, 0F100, VEN050404, VEN053402, LA974165, LAE5314, LA0C8142, RIV011211: Program matching funds for the federal funds programmed.</p> <p>4. LA0F098: Clarify why PA&ED and PS&E funding is programmed in prior year.</p> <p>5. LA0D31, ORA015, ORA016, ORA017, 20620, LA0D173, LA0F010, LA0G105, LA960134, LA9811102, ORA120501: No funding is programmed for these projects within 4-year FTIP period. Explain if these projects are programmed for environmental document approval.</p> <p>6. Imperial County: SHOPP Collision Reduction grouped project projecting is not programmed. Refer to the SHOPP grouped project listings report that was transmitted to you on April 28, 2008.</p> <p>7. ORA000193, LA000512: Explain why construction phase is programmed over multiple years.</p>	<p>1. The project was moved to the State Highway section.</p> <p>2. The fund type was corrected.</p> <p>3. The matching funds were programmed.</p> <p>4. The \$6,490 is programmed in prior years consistent with the Adopted 2008 SHOPP.</p> <p>5. The projects are included for planning purposes and /or environmental purposes in the informational portion of the RTP.</p> <p>6. SCAG developed the 2008 RTIP based on the Adopted 2008 SHOPP. Any changes subsequent to the initial adoption will be reflected in the first amendment to the 2008 RTIP.</p> <p>7. The programming was corrected.</p>
	8-Jul-08	Abhijit Bagde	Caltrans	<p>8. RIV62024: \$480,000 are programmed in FY 2008/09 for AC Conversion. Identify the federal fund type (HPP) to which the funds are converted to.</p> <p>9. RIV050501, ORA990451: \$160,000 are programmed in FY 2008/09 for AC Conversion. Identify the federal fund (HPP) type to which the funds are converted to.</p> <p>10. SBDLS011: Funding programmed (\$2,600,000 programmed compared with \$5,706,000 from SHOPP grouped project listings report)is not consistent with SHOPP grouped project listings report that was transmitted to you on April 28, 2008.</p> <p>11. VEN071106: 2006 STIP (shown below) or 2008 CTC Staff Recommendations do not show \$32,000,000 RIP funding programmed.</p> <p>(Embedded image moved to file: pic09469.jpg)</p> <p>(Embedded image moved to file: pic20850.jpg)</p> <p>12. For all STIP TEA funded projects use the fund types below: A. For the projects where source of matching funds STIP-RIP e.g. IMP0701202, IMP071201:</p>	<p>8. Fund type was corrected.</p> <p>9. Fund type was corrected.</p> <p>10. The SCAG region used the Adopted 2008 SHOPP for programming the 2008 RTIP. Any discrepancies with the most currently approved SHOPP program will be addressed in amendment #1 to the RTIP. The amount programmed in SBDLS011 in the Draft 2008 RTIP is consistent with the Adopted 2008 SHOPP.</p> <p>11. The 2008 STIP Staff recommendations and Hearing Book both reflect \$32,000,000 (PPNO 4006) for this project in 2008/09. Per the CTC adopting resolution G-08-08 (2.1) the CTC adopted the 2008 STIP to include the program described in the staff recommendations.</p> <p>12. Fund type was corrected.</p>

2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Response to Comments

Record ID	Comment Date	Name	Affiliation	Comment	Response
	8-Jul-08	Abhijit Bagde	Caltrans	<p>(Embedded image moved to file: pic16710.jpg)</p> <p>B. For STIP-RIP projects where source of matching funds is not from state funds e.g. LA0C8171, LA0D108:</p> <p>(Embedded image moved to file: pic14590.jpg)</p> <p>13. LA0D118: Scenic Byways Program requires 20% matching funds. Please program matching funds. See link below for more information. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/factsheets/scenic.htm</p> <p>14. LAE0882, LAE1274, LA996330: Program matching funds for HPP funds.</p> <p>15. SBD-200207, RIV-200603: Explain why construction phase is programmed over multiple years.</p> <p>16. RIV - 20010137: For PNRS funding the federal share is 80%. Program matching funds. See page 62 of 99 of the link below. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/factsheets/factsheets-safetea-lu.pdf</p> <p>17. LA0D45: Make adjustments to the programming per Note No. 2 under Financial Summary above.</p> <p>18. ORA001109: Move this project under Orange County State Highway Projects.</p> <p>19. ORA125: What is the source of "General Funds".</p>	<p>12. (b) Project LA0C8171 does program matching funds in the same year as the federal funds are programmed. Project LA0D108 -- matching funds were added to the project.</p> <p>13. Matching funds were added to the project.</p> <p>14. Matching funds were added to the projects.</p> <p>15. The construction phase is now programmed in one fiscal year.</p> <p>16. Matching funds were added to the project.</p> <p>17. The programming was corrected.</p> <p>18. The project was moved to the State Highway section.</p> <p>19. The fund source was corrected to "City" funds.</p>
	8-Jul-08	Abhijit Bagde	Caltrans	<p>20. IMPL507: Funding programmed is not consistent with the approved HBP listing posted at the website below. http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/hbrr99/2007_12_27/2007_12_27_Dist11_ImperialValleyAs sociLInItem.pdf</p> <p>21. SBD20040830: STIP TEA Reserve can not be programmed unless back-up list constituting to the funding programmed in FTIP exists. The lump sum listing CD does not include this project.</p> <p>22. SBDLS08: Matching funds of \$103,230 are not programmed in FY 2008/09 per the approved HBP listing posted at the website below. http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/hbrr99/2007_12_27/2007_12_27_Dist08_SanBernardinoAs socialumpSummary.pdf</p> <p>23. SCAG014: Riverside County listing includes separate HR3 lump sum listing (RIV070701). Please adjust funding in SCAG014 to avoid duplication. Also adjust the funding program per attached file. (See attached file: 08~09 HR3 FTIP Back-Up 05-12-08.xls)</p>	<p>20. Caltrans revised Imperial's HBP program on 03/04/08 and the programming in the Draft 2008 RTIP is consistent with the revised Caltrans program.</p> <p>21. The project was deleted from the 2008 RTIP.</p> <p>22. The matching funds were programmed.</p> <p>23. The Riverside projects were deleted from the #SCAG014 to avoid duplication.</p>

2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Response to Comments

Record ID	Comment Date	Name	Affiliation	Comment	Response
	8-Jul-08	Abhijit Bagde	Caltrans	<p>24. SCAG015: Riverside County listing includes separate HSIP lump sum listing (RIV070710). Please adjust funding in SCAG014 to avoid duplication. Also adjust the funding program per attached file. (See attached file: 08~09 HSIP FTIP Back-Up 05-12-08.xls)</p> <p>25. LA450022: Are the back-up projects consistent with the exempt categories per 40CFR 93.126 and 93.127, if yes please note that in the project description.</p> <p>26. ORA020113: Include local funds as shown below per 2008 STIP. (Embedded image moved to file: pic19947.jpg)</p> <p>27. RIV011211: This project is included under Riverside County Transit projects as well as under Section 5307 Program projects.</p> <p>28. SBD35556: Adjust RIP and IIP funding per following. (Embedded image moved to file: pic25408.jpg) (Embedded image moved to file: pic25687.jpg)</p> <p>29. SBD713: Are CMAQ and RSTP Advance Construction funds programmed on this project are local funds or Advance Construction Conversion funds (federal funds)? if local funds, then change the fund type to the appropriate local funds.</p>	<p>24. The Riverside projects were deleted from project SCAG014 to avoid duplication.</p> <p>25. The exempt language was added to the project description.</p> <p>26. The local funds were added to the project.</p> <p>27. The matching funds were added to the project.</p> <p>28. The RIP and IIP funding was adjusted.</p> <p>29. The fund type was corrected.</p>
				<p>Abhijit J. Bagde, P.E. Senior Transportation Engineer Division of Transportation Programming Office of Federal Trans. Mgmt. Program (916) 654-3638, CALNET 464-3638 FAX: (916) 654-2738</p>	

NOTE: Written Comment Letters for the following jurisdictions are included in the Final RTIP Technical Appendix Vo. II, Section VI
Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, City of Westlake Village, City of South Pasadena, and City of Newport Beach.



Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District

14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392-2310

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Visit our web site: <http://www.mdaqmd.ca.gov>

Eldon Heaston, Executive Director

June 17, 2008

Pablo Gutierrez,
Southern California Association of Governments
818 W. 7th St., 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Subject: 2008 Draft Regional Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Mr. Gutierrez:

The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) has received the request for comments for the 2008 Draft Regional Transportation Improvement Program, a capital listing of all transportation projects proposed over a six-year period, Fiscal Years 2008/09 – 2013/14. This listing identifies specific funding sources and funding amounts for each project. Projects include highway improvements, transit, rail and bus facilities, high occupancy vehicle lanes, signal synchronization, intersection improvements, and freeway ramps.

The MDAQMD has reviewed the program and, based on the information available to us at this time, we have no comments. The District supports the Southern California Association of Governments 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program; such projects are expected to produce cumulative and regional environmental benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this planning document. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (760) 245-1661, extension 6726, or Tracy Walters at extension 6122.

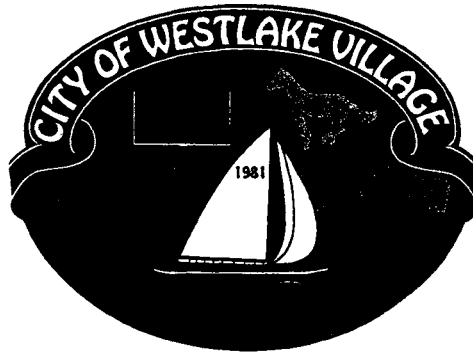
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan J. De Salvio". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan J. De Salvio
Supervising Air Quality Engineer

TW/AJD

Draft 2008 RTIP



July 7, 2008

***Submitted via e-mail and
overnight mail***

Pablo Gutierrez
Southern California Association of Governments
818 W. 7th St., 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Subject: Draft 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

Dear Mr. Gutierrez:

In review of the proposed 2008 RTIP, we became aware that DEMO-TEA21 funds for the City of Westlake Village's Rte101/Linder Canyon Road Interchange Improvement Project had been incorrectly programmed. Our project in this document is located in Volume III, Los Angeles County Local Highway section, Page 82 of 83, Identification No. LA960142, this sheet is attached herewith.

Using the new database created by Los Angeles County MTA, ProgramMetro, City staff programmed all \$244,000 DEMO-TEA 21 funds in November, 2007 to be allocated to this project in the 2008/2009 fiscal year. With no notification to the City, the programming of these funds are depicted in the 2008 RTIP as only \$62,000 available in 2008/2009 and \$188,000 as programmed in a prior year.

We have received word that the funds are in jeopardy of lapsing by FHWA if they can not be obligated soon. If these funds are not programmed as the City intended in the 2008 RTIP, then the City risks losing the funds since amendments to the 2008 RTIP will occur too far into the future.

We hope this information helps in restoring the City's correct RTIP Information. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 818-706-1613.

Sincerely,



John F. Knipe, P.E.
City Engineer

Cc: Raymond B. Taylor, City Manager
Fred Bral, Caltrans Local Assistance
Joe Bellomo, Willdan

1703/1002
1703/1003

July 8, 2008

Southern California Association of Governments
818 W. 7th Street, 12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Attention: Pablo Gutierrez

SUBJECT: SCAG 2008/09 – 2013/14 Draft Regional Transportation Improvement
Program (Draft 2008 RTIP)

Dear Mr. Gutierrez,

The City of Newport Beach Public Works Department has reviewed the Draft 2008 RTIP document. We have the following comments.

1. We would like to indicate our support for the Costa Mesa – Newport Boulevard projects ORA120502 and ORA120503.
2. We will continue to work with OCTA regarding the funding for the Jamboree Road Widening project, ORA040605.

If you should have any questions regarding our comments, please contact me at (949) 644-3329.

Sincerely,

Antony Brine, P.E., T.E.
City Traffic Engineer

cc: Steve Badum, Public Works Director
Dave Webb, Deputy Public Works Director



CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

1414 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030

TEL: 626.403.7230 FAX: 626.403.7211

July 7, 2008

Mr. Hasan Ikhata
Executive Director
Southern California Association of Governments
818 West Seventh Street
12th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Dear Mr. Ikhata,

In the letter from the City of South Pasadena to you dated February 19, 2008, the City commented on the Draft 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and its Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

One of the comments was in regard to Los Angeles County RTIP Project ID# 2009: State Route 710, NEAR SOUTH PASADENA FROM ROUTE 10 TO ROUTE 210 – PARTIAL RIGHT OF WAY FOR NEW 6 LANE FREEWAY WITH 2 HOV LANES (EA# 020090, PPNO 0219M) (PROPERTY MANAGEMENT).

The comment noted that RTIP ID# 2009 should be deleted from the RTIP Project Listings because such right-of way acquisition is enjoined, and there is no approval either existing or pending for a freeway of six lanes and 2 HOV ones. Nearly continuously since 1973, and continuously since July 1999, a federal court injunction has prohibited property acquisition by the State, so that such acquisitions cannot be deemed "underway." See *City of South Pasadena v. Slater* (C.D. Cal. 1999) 52 F. Supp. 2d 1106.

In addition, the 2008 RTP as approved includes only a potential 710 freeway tunnel. It does not include a surface 710 freeway, and it cannot be amended to add one at this time. In December 2003, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) formally withdrew its approval and support of the route 710 surface freeway, and in April, 2004, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) formally withdrew its approval of the surface freeway route adoption. Perplexingly, this surface freeway project persists on Page 19 of 44 in the Los Angeles County Previously Obligated Projects Section of the Project Listings of the 2008 Draft RTP.

A similar problem exists for Los Angeles County RTIP Project ID# 18790: Route 710: RTE 10 TO DEL MAR BLVD OVERCROSSING FOR THE 710 FWY - WORK ON ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE ISSUES & FUND INITIAL DESIGN. (EA# 187901, PPNO# 2215) (IIP) SAFETEA #2193 on Page 12 of 15 in the Los Angeles County State Highways Section. This project references work on a surface freeway extension that does not exist, has not been approved, and is not included in the 2008 RTP.

Moreover, the one 710 freeway option that is in the initial stages of analysis, the bored-tunnel option, cannot now be advanced to "environmental clearance," by virtue of the limitations made part of the Congressional appropriation for completing a prefatory feasibility assessment in HR 1195: "710 Freeway Study to comprehensively evaluate the technical feasibility of a tunnel alternative to close the 710 Freeway gap, considering all practicable routes, in addition to any potential route previously considered, and with no funds to be used for preliminary engineering or environmental review except to the extent necessary to determine feasibility".)

Finally, continued inclusion of the withdrawn surface freeway in the RTIP creates apprehension and distrust within South Pasadena. The project has been rescinded; regional transportation managers are considering a tunnel to substitute for the nearly-universally-recognized unacceptable impacts of a surface route. Maintaining a surface freeway on official plans frustrates the effort of political leaders in the region to secure a fair consideration of the tunnel option.

Please provide a written response to this comment that will assure South Pasadena that regional agencies are not pursuing a surface-freeway 710.

Sincerely,



Philip C. Putnam
Mayor